

REMARKS

Claims 2-7, 9-14, 16-23, 25-34, and 36-49 were previously pending in this patent application. Claims 2-7, 9-14, 16-23, 25-34, and 36-49 stand rejected. Herein, Claims 5, 7, 9, 10, 20, 22, 23, 31, 41, and 45-49 have been amended. Accordingly, after this Amendment and Response, Claims 2-7, 9-14, 16-23, 25-34, and 36-49 remain pending in this patent application. Further examination and reconsideration in view of the claims, remarks, and arguments set forth below is respectfully requested.

35 U.S.C. Section 103(a) Rejections

Claims 2-4, 7, 11-14, 25-31, 36-41, 45-46, and 48-49 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. Section 103(a) as being unpatentable over Rangan, U.S. Patent No. 5,583,994 (hereafter Rangan), in view of Ice, U.S. Patent No. 5,884,031 (hereafter Ice). These rejections are respectfully traversed.

The amendments to Independent Claims 45-49 overcome the rejections in view of the combination of Rangan and Ice. Therefore, it is respectfully submitted that Independent Claims 45-49 is patentable over the combination of Rangan and Ice and are in condition for allowance.

Dependent Claims 2-7, 9-14, 16-23, 25-34, and 36-44 are dependent on one of allowable Independent Claims 45-49, which are allowable over the combination of Rangan and Ice. Hence, it is respectfully submitted that Dependent Claims 2-7, 9-14, 16-23, 25-34, and 36-44 are allowable over the combination of Rangan and Ice for at least the reasons discussed above.

CONCLUSION

It is respectfully submitted that the above claims, arguments and remarks overcome all rejections. All remaining claims (Claims 2-7, 9-14, 16-23, 25-34, and 36-49) are neither anticipated nor obvious in view of the cited references. For at least the above-presented reasons, it is respectfully submitted that all remaining claims (Claims 2-7, 9-14, 16-23, 25-34, and 36-49) are in condition for allowance.

The Examiner is urged to contact Applicant's undersigned representative if the Examiner believes such action would expedite resolution of the present Application.

Respectfully submitted,

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